

Kid safety on the Internet: What parents need to know

- It is very important for parents to be aware of their children's use of the Internet. There are benefits and risks to online resources and information. A few Internet rules can make your child's use of the computer a safe and positive experience.
- Limit your child's time on the computer, and consider moving personal computers out of bedrooms and into a family room where more supervision is possible. Make using the computer a family event.
- Use an Internet provider that allows you to customize your system. Install filters that prevent certain materials or text from being installed or viewed on the computer.
- If you or your child receives an email that is offensive, contact your Internet provider about this message.
- Do not give out personal or family information online. Teach your child that people online are not necessarily who they say they are, and that what they read may not always be true.
- Stay informed as technology changes and learn how not to become a victim of hacking, viruses and other computer intrusions.

Kid safety on the Internet: What teachers need to know

- Discuss Internet crime, proper Internet use and computer safety with your students periodically.
- Always lock your workstation when you will be away from your computer for any length of time. This will keep someone from using your computer to cause damage or conduct illegal transactions.
- The Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), enforced by the Federal Trade Commission, requires commercial website operators to get parental consent before collecting any personal information from kids under 13 years of age. COPPA allows teachers to act on behalf of a parent during school activities online, but does not require them to do so. Check to see whether your school district has a policy about disclosing student information.

- Exercise caution when downloading files from the Internet. Make sure you know that the site is reliable and trustworthy.
- Remind students that all information online is not necessarily true. This is especially true for children as they research information for school reports.

Georgia Department of Human Resources
Office of Communications
www.dhr.georgia.gov
August 2006